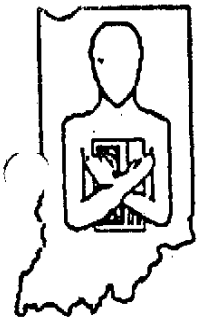

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JUNE 1992 The HUGgers Newsletter Volume 11, Number 6

OFFICER'S CORNER

Our next meeting will be on June 21, which is Father's Day. The meeting will start at the usual time which is 2:00.

We have recieved the video tapes we ordered from last month's Lima Faire. These will be available for viewing at the meeting.

As you probably are aware, last year we changed the proceedure for collecting dues so that everyone's dues would be due in May of each year, rather than on the anniversary of when they joined. We more or less expected that this first year of the new renewal date that dues would be slow in coming in. Unfortunately that has been the case.

Please remember that your dues make possible our publishing of a monthly newsletter and maintaining a bulletin board system (BBS). For the past few years our membership has hovered around 35-45 members. We need to be able to maintain our membership near that level to be able to continue providing a newsletter and running the BBS. **So, PLEASE, if you have not already done so, please send in your dues** .... remember belonging to a users' group is the easiest way to keep up with what is happening in the TI world, and to obtain the latest in "fareware" or "freeware" software, not to mention help with both hardware and software problems.

Bryant Pedigo, V.P.
Hoosier Users' Group

P.S. Dues may be sent either to our Post Office Box or directly to our Treasurer, who's address is elsewhere in this issue.

MONTHLY MEETING LOCATION
LITTLE HOUSE NEXT TO THE
ST. ANN'S SCHOOL
2839 S. McCLURE
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
MEETING STARTS
AT 2:00 P.M.
JUNE 21 1992

NEWSLETTER

For some time we have been trying to figure what it is costing us to print and mail the Newsletter each month. The last figures needed were the cost of Toner for the copy machine and how many copies we can make from one bottle of Toner. Our Treasurer, Fred Edstrum Jr. submitted these figurers to us and here, after some figuring, is the reply.

Each issue runs about 6 cents per Newsletter. That makes Uncle Sam's postal service the biggest expense at 29 cents per Newsletter for the mailing each month, for a grand total of 35 cents per copy. Our foreign mail runs a little higher (40 cents each to Canada and 95 cents to Australia.)

This is a Reprint of an Article that appeared in The Indianapolis Star 5/23/92
(Bob Stahlhut does the pasteup for this Newsletter)

Taking time to remember

Memorial gathering honors veterans' service

By JOHN R. O'NEILL
STAR STAFF WRITER

The way Harry Reuss sees it, he deserves one more ride on a B-24 bomber.

Reuss, a turret gunner, was shot down on his third mission in World War II.

"I always say, the government still owes me a landing," Reuss said. "They took me up three times and only brought me back twice."

Reuss was among several hundred people who gathered Friday on Monument Circle for the "500" Festival Memorial Service.

And if he didn't get his plane ride, he still enjoyed what he heard and saw.

"Thanks to each one of you who have taken time to remember the real purpose that underlies this weekend," Dominic DiFrancesco, national commander of the American Legion, told the crowd.

"All veterans know firsthand the sacrifices necessary to preserve our way of life."

There were plenty of those veterans in the audience Friday — but not as many as there used to be.

"We're a vanishing breed," Reuss, a member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, said after the ceremony.

For Reuss and others, remembering is all too easy. It's making others remember that can be hard.

"People forget awful quick," Reuss said. "This last thing in the desert — people were pretty gung-ho about it for a while, but now it's dismissed."

Reuss attended with Robert Stahlhut, who's also a member of the POW group, and Leonard Rose, the group's national director.

The three all served in the Army Air Force as turret gunners on bombers; Reuss and Rose flew in B-24s, and Stahlhut flew in a B-17.

Stahlhut, like Reuss, was shot down on his third mission; Rose, on his 28th.

All spent the rest of the war in prison camps. And as the end neared, the Germans forced the prisoners to march out of their camps and away from the approaching Allied forces.

Rose saw men shot when they could march no longer. Stahlhut saw three men duck under a bridge, hoping to escape. He heard shots later, but never was sure of their fate.

"People all wanted to know what we went through. And I told them, 'You wouldn't believe me if I told you,' " Rose said.

When Stahlhut got home, he heard something he couldn't believe.

"I heard some guy say, 'I wish this war had lasted a few more months. I was making good money' " (at a munitions factory, Stahlhut figures).

Reuss and Rose both were stationed in Italy, and both were in the same German prison camp. Though they had worked together at the Ford Motor Co. plant in Indianapolis since 1960, they didn't know of their common past until 1978.

That's when Rose saw a picture of a B-24 on Reuss' desk. It started a conversation which led to them forming a local chapter of the POW group a year later.

The members now have plenty to share from their time in the service and their time in captivity.

But Rose said he couldn't talk about it for a long time.

"For 30 years, we didn't talk about what we went through," Rose said.

"Now," Stahlhut said, "we talk our heads off."

FREE DISK

This is being printed to let you know just one thing you missed by not going to the Lima TI FAIR! The disk spoken about here and one similar, have been given away FREE for the several years I have had the privilege of attending this FAIR. BOB

- 1992 -

Hello! We're the TI-CHIPS. This message is in standard D/V 80 text format, and can be down-loaded onto any word processor for the TI-99/4A. We hope you'll enjoy the sample programs and the other D/V 80 articles on this disk.

The TI-CHIPS is a TI user group serving much of Northeast Ohio. We meet on the third Saturday of EVERY month in the Cuyahoga County Public library located in North Royalton, Ohio on State Road (about 1000 feet south of Royalton Road, State Route 82) from 10:00 to noon.

The TI-CHIPS is one of the few 99/4A user groups in the U.S.A. that has an enthusiastic and growing membership.

We are very fortunate in having members who are able, and more than willing, to share their knowledge in programming the TI-99/4A (The original version of WHEEL-OF-FORTUNE on this disk was created by TI-CHIPS member DAN WILLIAMS and his son ROB. Read the WOF HINTS), modifying and/or creating hardware and firmware for the 99/4A as well as expertice in telecommunications (making a modem work).

If you are planning a visit to our area, or might be moving to Northeast Ohio, why not look us up. We'd love to meet you, and show you what we're all about!

You can reach the TI-CHIPS by contacting our Membership Chairman JOHN PARKEN on 4172 West 217th Street in Fairview Park, Ohio 44126 or phone: (216)331-2830. Feel free to contact either of our co-presidents GLENN BERNASEK at (216)238-6335 or DINNY STOCKDALE at (216)345-5239.

REMINDER!
Club Members:

Dues are coming in all the time, so, if you have already sent in your renewal, Please ignore this reminder.

Your $10.00 can be sent to:

HOOSIER USERS GROUP
Fred Edstrom Jr Treasurer
1320 N Bonar Ave
Indianapolis IN 46229

It was decided to save a little money by sending the receipts to you in your next Newsletter.

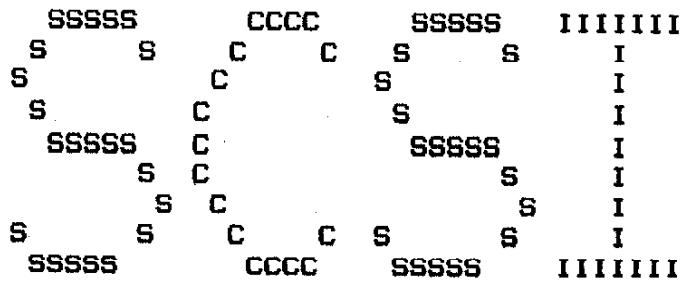
We do still have our Post Office Box, if you wish to use it.

That address is:

HOOSIER USERS GROUP
P.O. Box 2222
Indianapolis, IN 46206-2222

Sending to Freds house, just makes it a little easier for him.

WESTERN HORIZON TECHNOLOGIES INTRODUCES ---



HARD AND FLOPPY DISK CONTROLLER FOR THE TI
99/4A AND MYARC GENEVE

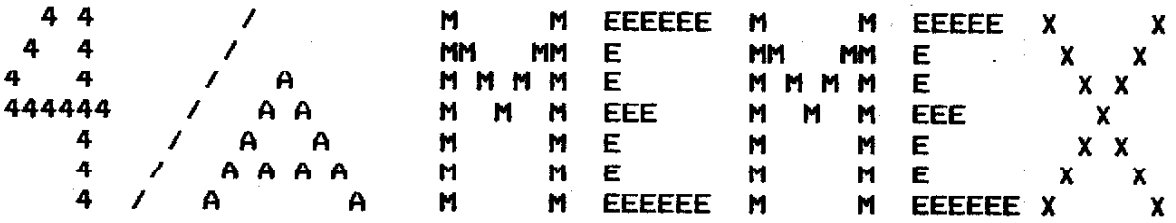
This advanced new peripheral for your Texas Instruments 99/4a or Myarc Geneve will expand your storage capacity to hundreds of megabytes. This high performance disk drive interface allows you to connect up to any combination of 7 SCSI hard and floppy drives with any capacity up to the SCSI limitations. You can connect floppy drives, both 3.5 and 5.25 inch, with current capacities up to 4 megabytes (unformatted). Or connect a Winchester drive with an astonishing 1.6 gigabytes of hard disk storage. You can even connect a CD ROM player for accss to hundreds of pictures and sounds.

This new peripheral will read and write TI floppies in all current formats as well as PC compatible floppies! That's right, you get PC TRANSFER (c) capabilities BUILT IN! You can now exchange data DIRECTLY with an IBM PC or compatible without having to convert!

Expand your disk capacity with this new SCSI controller designed by WHT avvailable SOON from Bud Mills Services.

PRELIMINARY PRICE-- $170 US

ALSO COMING SOON FROM WHT--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4 / A A M M EEEEEE M M EEEEEE X X

This advanced p-box memory expansion peripheral provides your TI 99/4a system with up to 16 MEGABYTES of PROGRAM SPACE on each card! Plus, you can install up to FOUR cards in one p-box for up to 64 MEGABYTES of memory for programs and data!

Once installed in your expansion box, the 4a Memex allows you to load HUGE programs, sounds (for Digi-Port) and graphics for INSTANTANEOUS access or playback.

The 4a Memex comes with an advanced memory manager BUILT IN to its EPROM based DSR. Other features include: Power up memory test, Auto system config, and New system load.+4a Memex memory can also be used as temporary RAM DISK storage for fast access to frequently used data and program files.

This memory card will provide you with th expansion you need for the 21st century.

Built using the latest AMD DRAM controller and SIMM technology, the 4a Memex allows an easy and INEXPENSIVE way to upgrade your computer's memory. Each 4a Memex supports INDUSTRY STANDARD SIMM MODULES for memory. SIMM modules

can be in 256k, 1 MB, and 4MB by 8 or 9 sizes in cheap 100ns or less speeds. Four SIMM slots are available for memory configurations from 256k to 16 MB.

This card was built to provide you with th FINAL SOLUTION in memory xpansion for your TI 99/4a computer system.

PRELIMINARY PRICE-- $175 US, includes 1 MB of RAM

NOW SHIPPING!!!!!!

DIGI-PORT!!

Digi-port is a unique combination of hardware and software to allow your TI 99/4a or Myarc Geneve to play TRUE DIGITIZED SOUNDS from a MAC, Amiga. PC or any other digitized sound through your PIO port (1 or 2). The package includes an assembly (both TI and Geneve compatible) sound player that allows you to pick your sound from any directory or disk drive you may have. Digi-Port supports RAMBO compatible memory, such as a Horizon RAM DISK with RAMBO accessory or a 4a Memex. It also supports 32k or 9938/58 VDP memory (up to 192k) on BOTH the Geneve and 99/4a.

Included in each package are 10 sound disks containing sounds to play, the assembly player, and MDOS player for the Geneve that supports Geneve memory expansion and BASIC/EXTENDED BASIC call links for playing sounds with RAMBO memory on the 4a.

When combined with Alexander Hulpke's XHI, the XB link provides the FIRST MULTIMEDIA environment available on the 99/4a. Now you can write a SOUND AND SIGHT SPECTACULAR in EXTENDED BASIC and use the true POWER of your 99/4.

NOW SHIPPING FROM BUD MILLS SERIVICES---

PACKAGES AVAILABLE- SSSD, DSSD, DSDD

$40 US

***** ACCELERATOR UPDATE *****

The ACCELERATOR IS NOT DEAD YET! We received some information from TI that has solved one of the problems we were having. At this point we are preparing to build prototype PC boards for ROM development. We are currently negotiating with somebody about the ROM code development and we hope to have it available SOON! The accelerator will now contain an optional 32k Cache, and 128k or EPROM. In the EPROM will be a shell type program for loading and running all your programs. Prelminary price is still at $250.

WHT also provides you with inexpensive PAL / EPROM programming. For only $5 per chip, WHT can burn your program into an EPROM or PAL for your projects. We offer volume discounts and can supply you with the PAL/GAL/EPROM for your project. Call about our design services too!

I would like to thank you for your support you have given the 11 community over the years.

WHT Can be reached any time by mail or phone at--

Western Horizon Technologies
Don O'Neil
10225 Jean Ellen Drive
Gilroy CA, 95020
(408)-848-5947

(Reprinted from April 1992 MICROpendium)

TI and PC BASIC comparisons

Converting TI Extended BASIC to QuickBASIC

BY BARRY TRAVER
©1992 B. Traver

This is the second of three articles in a series comparing the TI-99/4A and the IBM. Last time we saw that — although it may have been surprising to some people - a "standard" TI has many features that are absent from many or most IBM systems. You cannot assume, for example, that all IBM systems even support color graphics on the screen. A special CGA, EGA, VGA, or "Super-VGA" graphics card is required, and even if that is present, there is still no support (as there is on the TI) of genuine sprites (much less sprites with automotion!). Without a special sound card (AdLib, SoundBlaster, etc.), the IBM does not even support music with more than one voice (whereas you get three voices on the TI plus a noise generator). Likewise, special equipment (which is possessed by a minority of IBM owners) is required if you want your IBM to talk to you, and most IBM systems do not support speech.

Thus Microsoft QuickBASIC for the IBM has no CALL SAY or CALL SPRITE commands. It does have a CALL SOUND, but only for one voice and there is no volume control (which may or may not make much difference, because on most IBM systems - including those that cost $1500 or more - the sound comes out on a cheap internal speaker that isn't much to listen to). Of course, the IBM was designed to be a business computer rather than an all-purpose home computer, so it is perhaps understandable that even the most basic TI system includes many features absent from "professional" IBM systems. After all, what need is there in most business software of capabilities for speech, multi-voice music, full-color graphics with animation, etc.?

Transporting TI Extended BASIC programs that make extensive use of speech, music, graphics, etc. to IBM QuickBASIC can be thus very difficult and at times impossible. The video chips that we use in the TI world (9918A, 9938, 9958) are the same chips used in various games systems (Nintendo, Sega, etc.), but such chips are lacking on the IBM. Likewise (unless you have a Tandy PC, which uses the same sound chip as is in our TI-99/4A) the sound capabilities are just not present on the ordinary IBM. It is not really that QuickBASIC for the IBM is inferior to TI Extended BASIC (in fact, QuickBASIC is, in my

The HUG thanks Greg Lind for the donation!

MONTHLY MEETING LOCATION
LITTLE HOUSE NEXT TO
ST. ANN'S SCHOOL
2839 S. McCLURE
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

MEETING STARTS
AT 2:00 P.M.
JUNE 21 1992

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This news letter is brought to you by the efforts of the officers & members of the Hoosier Users Group.

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MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION.-PLEASE!

REMEMBER
This is YOUR user group too!

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opinion, a superb accomplishment), but that any language is limited to the hardware it has to work with, and typical IBM hardware is simply not equipped to do what TI'ers are accustomed to seeing (and hearing) their computer do.

MANY PROGRAMS EASY TO PORT

Having said all that, let me say that — as long as we're not talking about speech, fancy music, and tricky animated graphics — it is NOT difficult to port many TI Extended BASIC programs over to run on the IBM. In particular, if a program is basically text-oriented and its primary purpose is the manipulation of text or numbers, you may find it surprisingly easy to bring the program over from the TI to the IBM (or to go the opposite direction, as the next and final article in this series will show). I'm speaking here not from mere theory, but from real experience, having transported a number of TI XB programs (which had been custom-written in TI XB for an insurance actuary) so that they will run on his IBM. If you're willing to give up the "fun and games" for a "strictly business" operation, the IBM can do a quite capable (and, let's admit it, to be fair, sometimes a even better and faster) job. Again, business is what the IBM was designed for.

This month's article will suggest just some of the "basics" for converting a TI Extended BASIC program to QuickBASIC. There is no room in this one article to go into full detail (for example, I'm only going to mention the fact that in QuickBASIC you can have four different types of numeric variables — integers, long integers, single-precision decimals, and double-precision decimals, and not attempt to explain that any further). If you're seriously interested in exploring the topic more fully than is possible in this article, you can either (1) attempt to persuade MICROpendium to publish more articles on the same topic or (2) contact me for further help on converting programs from TI XB to QuickBASIC. (I have, for example, written a fairly extensive library of QuickBASIC routines that emulate various TI XB routines, including ACCEPT AT, DISPLAY AT, CALL GCHAR, CALL HCHAR, LINPUT, CALL VCHAR, MAX, MIN, RPT$, SEG$. For more information, send a SASE. to Barry Traver, 835 Green Valley Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19128, or send $15 for the library on an IBM 5.25" 360K disk.)

BEGIN WITH UNBASHER

Before you do anything else in the process, I recommend that you begin with using my UNBASHER program (to be published next month in MICROpendium) to get rid of multi-statement lines in your TI XB program. (Yes, QuickBASIC does support multi-statement lines, but removing them will make your task simpler.)

Then LIST the program to disk on your TI. The next step is to get this ASCII (i.e., text) file from the TI to the IBM. There are many ways to do this. If you have a double-density disk controller on your TI, you can use Mike Dodd's PC-TRANSFER to accomplish the job. (PC-TRANSFER is available, for instance, from Beery Miller, 9640 News, P.O. Box 752465, Memphis, TN 38175-2465 for $25.) If you have both a TI and an IBM, you may want to check out SMART CONNECT. (For a copy, send $10 to Bruce Harrison, Harrison Software, 5705 40th Place, Hyattsville, MD 20781.)

Both PCT and SC seem to work very well for the purpose, but there are also other ways to accomplish the same end. If both the TI and the IBM have access to modems and phone lines, you can run a terminal program on each machine (for example, Fast-Term on the TI and Pro-Comm Plus on the IBM), and then do an ASCII upload from the TI to the IBM. Or you can do what I usually do: connect an appropriate cable (NOT the same as the cable that goes from the TI to a modem) from the serial port on the TI to the serial port on the IBM, and again do an ASCII upload from the TI to the IBM. It's a joy to watch it scroll across the IBM screen at 9600 baud, and no modem is required! (You do have to know what you're doing, however, on a proper cable. Thanks go to my friend and hardware ace Allan Silversteen for getting me fixed up on that.)

The remaining thing is do is to "massage" the text so that it's talking language that QuickBASIC understands. What I ordinarily do before I start playing with the program and trying to run it is to make all lines into remarks. To do this in QuickBASIC, put REM (as in TI XB) or an apostrophe (corresponding to the exclamation point in TI XB) at the beginning of each program line. You can then modify lines (as described below) and then remove the REM or apostrophe when the line looks like it will run okay in QuickBASIC. (By the way, QuickBASIC doesn't require line numbers, but likewise it doesn't require that they be removed, so it's usually easiest to just leave them in.)

Important: TI Extended BASIC uses a double colon to separate statements in multi-statement lines, whereas QuickBASIC uses a single colon. Leaving the double colons in will not confuse QuickBASIC (although I recommend removing them), but what can cause a problem is the use that TI XB makes of single colons, especially in DISPLAY AT statements. For that reason, I suggest that you rewrite TI XB programs so as to eliminate single colons in DISPLAY AT statements.

WORDS WORK THE SAME

Many words work essentially the same way in TI XB and QuickBASIC, such as ABS, AND, ASC, ATN, CHR$, CLOSE, COS, DATA, DIM, END, EOF, EXP, FOR...NEXT, GOSUB...RETURN, GOTO, IF...THEN...ELSE, INPUT, INT, LEN, LET, LOG, NOT, OPEN (but see below), OPTION BASE, OR, PRINT (but see below), READ, REM, RESTORE, RND, SGN, SIN, SQR, STOP, TAN, VAL, and XOR. There are occasional differences, but they are usually minor. For example STR$ on the TI automatically trims of the leading blank space in front of a positive number, but that is not true of STR$ on the IBM.

One difference on the IBM is that track is kept of cursor postion (and the cursor may be visible or invisible). The cursor position determines where the next PRINT action will begin on the IBM, and you can designate the cursor position with LOCATE. (By default, printing ordinarily begins at the top of the screen.) Thus PRINT "HELLO" on the IBM will not necessarily print "HELLO" at the bottom line of the screen (unless that is where the cursor is currently located), whereas on the TI a PRINT always prints on the bottom line.

The way to handle a DISPLAY AT(ROW, COL):MESSAGE$ from TI Extended BASIC is to do a LOCATE ROW, COL : PRINT MESSAGE$ in QuickBASIC. Likewise, the way to deal with an ACCEPT AT(ROW, COL):MESSAGE$ is to do a LOCATE ROW, COL : INPUT (or LINE INPUT) MESSAGE$. The counterpart to LINPUT MESSAGE$ in TI XB is LINE INPUT MESSAGE$ in QuickBASIC. A word of warning: check the QuickBASIC manual to see what punctuation (if any) QuickBASIC expects. Often where TI XB uses a colon, QB will use a comma or a semicolon (since the colon is the statement separator in QuickBASIC).

By the way, our ACCEPT AT is much more sophisticated than the INPUT or LINE INPUT on the IBM, since we can provide a VALIDATE string, program a BEEP, designate a maximum SIZE, and (if we wish) accept a screen default (by using a negative SIZE). QuickBASIC (with its annoying "Redo from start" error message retained from GW-BASIC) is not user-friendly for user input, which is why one of the first things I did was write a QuickBASIC emulation of ACCEPT AT (complete with all the features I just mentioned). One nice thing about QuickBASIC is that the language is extensible. As with TI Extended BASIC, you can write your own subprograms, and they then become part of the language. Therefore I'm working on teaching my IBM to do an increasingly good imitation of a TI in those areas where TI XB has more sophisticated routines (which is especially true of a routine like ACCEPT AT)!

Floppy drives on a TI are DSK1., DSK2., etc., while drives on an IBM are ordinarily A:, B:, C:, etc. Fortunately, if you are familiar with working with disk files on the TI, you won't have much trouble with working with them on an IBM. Instead of OPEN #1:"DSK1.FILENAME", INPUT as you have on the TI, the IBM will have OPEN "A:FILENAME" FOR INPUT AS #1. TI filenames can have a maximum of ten letters, whereas IBM filenames can have a maximum of eight letters (but can have a three-letter extension if desired, e.g., FILENAME.TXT).

SEG$ on the TI is equivalent to MID$ on the IBM. CALL CLEAR is replaced by CLS. (CLEAR has a different meaning on the IBM.) There is nothing that exactly corresponds to CALL KEY(0,K,S), but often K=ASC(INKEY$) on the IBM will serve the same purpose. Instead of RANDOMIZE, use RANDOMIZE TIMER. If you use CALL SOUND, remember that QuickBASIC not only has only one voice but also calculates duration differently from the TI.

Often the best approach is to use QuickBASIC procedures (subprograms and functions) that emulate TI XB routines. Below are some QuickBASIC procedures that you may find useful; extracted from my TIXBQB package of QuickBASIC emulations of TI XB routines and reduced to the basics.

```
SUB ACCEPTAT (Row%, Col%, AString$)
' TI XB format:    ACCEPT AT(Row, Col):AString$
' QBASIC format:  ACCEPTAT Row, Col, AString$  or
                  CALL ACCEPTAT (Row, Col, AString$)
'   Example:  ACCEPTAT 10, 1, "Now is the time...." or
              ACCEPTAT (10, 1, "Now is the time....")
LOCATE Row%, Col%, 0
LINE INPUT AString$
END SUB

SUB DISPLAYAT (Row%, Col%, AString$)
' TI XB format:    DISPLAY AT(Row, Col):AString$
' QBASIC format:  DISPLAYAT Row, Col, AString$  or
                  CALL DISPLAYAT (Row, Col, AString$)
'   Example:  DISPLAYAT 10, 1, "Now is the time...." or
              DISPLAYAT (10, 1, "Now is the time....")
LOCATE Row%, Col%, 0
PRINT AString$
END SUB

SUB GCHAR (Row%, Col%, Code%)
' TI XB format:    CALL GCHAR(Row, Col, Code)
' QBASIC format:  CALL GCHAR(Row, Col, Code)
'   Example:  CALL GCHAR(12, 14, CH)
Code% = SCREEN(Row%, Col%)
END SUB

SUB HCHAR (Row%, Col%, Code%, Repetitions%)
' TI XB format:    CALL HCHAR(Row, Col, Code, Repetitions)
' QBASIC format:  CALL HCHAR4(Row, Col, Code, Repetitions)
'   Example:  CALL HCHAR3(1, 1, 42, 28)
LOCATE Row%, Col%
PRINT STRING$(Repetitions%, Code%)
END SUB

SUB LINPUT (AString$)
' TI XB format:    LINPUT AString$
' QBASIC format:  LINPUT AString$
'   Example:  LINPUT A$
LINE INPUT AString$
END SUB

FUNCTION MAX% (Number1%, Number2%)
' TI XB format:    MAX(Number1, Number2)
' QBASIC format:  MAX(Number1, Number2)
'   Example:  MAX(3, 5)
IF Number1% > Number2% THEN MAX% = Number1% ELSE MAX = Number2%
END FUNCTION

FUNCTION MIN% (Number1%, Number2%)
' TI XB format:    MIN(Number1, Number2)
' QBASIC format:  MIN(Number1, Number2)
```

(Reprinted from
April 1992 MICROpendium)

```
'   Example:  MIN(3, 5)
IF Number1% < Number2% THEN MIN% = Number1% ELSE MIN% = Number2%
END FUNCTION

FUNCTION POSI% (String1$, String2$, Start%)
' TI XB format:    POS(String1$, String2$, Start)
' QBASIC format:   POSI(String1$, String2$, Start)
'   Example:  POSI('LIFELINES', 'FELINE', 1)
'  Note:  We cannot use POS(String1$, String2$, Start) in QuickBASIC, because
'   POS is a reserved word in QuickBASIC with an entirely different meaning.
POSI% = INSTR(Start%, String1$, String2$)
END FUNCTION

FUNCTION RPT$ (Message$, Repetitions%)
' TI XB format:    RPT$(Message$, Repetitions)
' QBASIC format:   RPT$(Message$, Repetitions)
'   Example:  RPT$('*', 28)
Holder$ = ""
FOR I% = 1 TO Repetitions%
 Holder$ = Holder$ + Message$
NEXT I%
RPT$ = Holder$
END FUNCTION

FUNCTION SEG$ (Message$, Start%, Number%)
' TI XB format:    SEG$(Message$, Start, Number)
' QBASIC format:   SEG$(Message$, Start, Number)
'   Example:  SEG$('LIFELINES', 3, 6)
SEG$ = MID$(Message$, Start%, Number%)
END FUNCTION

SUB VCHAR (Row%, Col%, Code%, Repetitions%)
' TI XB format:    CALL VCHAR(Row, Col, Code, Repetitions)
' QBASIC format:   CALL HCHAR4(Row, Col, Code, Repetitions)
'   Example:  CALL VCHAR4(1, 1, 42, 24)
FOR I% = 1 TO Repetitions%
 LOCATE Row% - 1 + I%, Col% - 2
 PRINT CHR$(Code%)
NEXT I%
END SUB
```

Tips on using Funnelweb 4.40

This comes from Phil Martin of Keizer, Oregon. He writes:

Recently, I recieved a letter from a TIer who had obtained a copy of Funnelweb 4.40. He mentioned being unable to exit from Quick Directory, among other things. Since then I ordered a copy of the program and found that most of the documentation was not included. So I set it aside until I had time to explore. What follows is the result of that exploration:

- To exit from the Quick Directory feature the key combination is CTRL +/=.
- Funnelweb 4.40 no longer looks for the CHARA1/CHARA2 character filenames but rather C1/C2. If your old version has custom character files you would prefer, simply copy them to your 4.40 disk and rename them. Of course, you're using a backup copy of the Funnelweb disk to do this.
- With all versions prior to 4.40, the exit from Funnelweb was from the assembler side by pressing 8 to reset and then 8 again to quit. With 4.40 the new exit is accessed from either menu by pressing Escape (either CTRL C or FCTN 9).

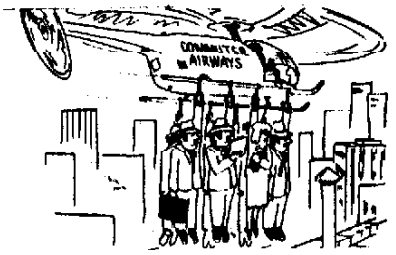
If you press Enter with "N" you are given options to change. First, the character set name for the Text Edit side (1), next for the Program Edit side (2), then the printer name and, finally, the drive location for the TI-Writer and Editor/Assembler files. These are shown as 11 under the heading "From Drive TW/EA." This is read not as "eleven" but as "one-one." After this you are returned to the menu system.

- There is also a chnage in the CONFIGURE program which affects the operation of the loading procedure. This is under the LOADING heading within CONFIGURE. After loading CONFIGURE you must first load SYSCON, then select Edit from the SYSCON menu, This presents you with the menu which includes the LOADING option. Within this selection you will find the option IMMEDIATE. Pressing "I" gives you a choice of three options — FW, UL or DR. FW is, of course, Funnelweb, UL is the User List and DR is Diskreview. If you want to get to Funnelweb directly you must have this set to FW. The IMMEDIATE feature replaces the UL IMMEDIATE function found in previous versions of the CONFIGURE program.

For more information about configuring Funnelweb see Tutorial: Configuring Funnelweb by Jim Swedlow (October 1988, MICROpendium).

Diskreview is new to the system. It has some of the features offered by John Birdwell's DISKU. These include some of the disk-handling functions and a sector editor, as well as the ability to load and run many programs from the directory it generates. These include Extended BASIC programs *if Funnelweb was loaded from the XB cartridges*. This is true even if using the P-GRAM+ card. Note the key definition diagram to the left of each screen. These definitions change as you progress through the various functions of the program. As an example: From the first screen you can select a drive to scan (1-9), select a different color scheme (0) or enter the disk/RAMdisk utilities sections (D). From this same area you can return to the Editor/Assembler side of the Funnelweb system by pressing CTRL +/=, fly pressing "F" you are presented with both central menus from Funnelweb, which allows you to load any of the selections from either.

I hope this helps those who received a copy of 4.40 without docs. Meanwhile, if there is somebody out there who has the documentation disk for 4.40, it might help if they wrote to MICROpendium to let the rest of us know.



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